STATE OF ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE SECURITIES DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF: LINCOLN NATIONAL FINANCIAL)
GROUP its OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, PARTNERS, AGENTS,)
EMPLOYEES, AFFILIATES, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS.)

FILE NO. 1000176

ORDER OF PROHIBITION

TO RESPONDENTS:

Lincoln National Financial Group

1455 Lincoln Parkway Atlanta, Georgia 30346

WHEREAS, a Amended Temporary Order of Prohibition was issued by the Secretary of State on July 23, 2010 which prohibited Lincoln National Financial Group (Respondent") from engaging in the business of loan brokering in the State of Illinois until further order of the Secretary of State or his duly authorized representative;

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 15-55(e) Illinois Loan Brokers Act of 1955 [815 ILCS 175/15-1] (the "Act"), the failure to request a hearing within thirty (30) calendar days of the entry of the Temporary Order shall constitute an admission of any acts alleged therein and constitute a sufficient basis to make the Temporary Order final;

WHEREAS, the Respondent has failed to request a hearing on the matters contained in the Temporary Order within thirty (30) calendar days of the entry of said Temporary Order and the Respondent is hereby deemed to have admitted the facts alleged in the Temporary Order:

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State, by and through his duly authorized representative, has adopted the Findings of Fact contained in the Temporary Order as the Secretary of State's Findings of fact as follows:

- 1. That Lincoln National Financial Group, ("Respondent"), has a last known address of 1455 Lincoln Parkway, Atlanta, Georgia 30346 as its business address.
- 2. That on or about February 26, 2010, Respondent, by and through its Officers, Directors, Partners, Employees, Affiliates, Successors, Agents and Assigns, offered to procure loans via the internet at http://www.Lincolnnfg.com (the "Ad") which was viewed by at least one (1) Illinois resident (the "Borrower").

- 3. That the Borrower responded to the Ad and was then called by a representative of the Respondent on March 2, 2010, who told Borrower that due to his bad credit an advance collateral payment of Eight Hundred Eighty Twenty (\$820.00) Dollars was required and then Borrower would receive a personal loan of Twelve Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars.
- 4. That on March 3, 2010 Borrower remitted the sum of Eight Hundred Twenty (\$820.00) Dollars via Western Union money transfer to the Respondent's representative.
- 5. That around 2:00 PM that same day Respondent's representative called the borrower and stated that her loan was re-assessed and there was a problem. For insurance collateral they would need another Eight Hundred Twenty (\$820.00) Dollars.
- 6. That Borrower later on the day of March 3, 2010 remitted another sum of Eight Hundred Twenty (\$820.00) Dollars via Western Union money transfer to the Respondent's representative.
- 7. That Borrower never received a loan or the return her advance collateral payment and advance insurance collateral payment to the Respondent.
- 8. That the above-referenced Respondent is a loan broker as that term is defined pursuant to Section 15-5.15. of the Illinois Loan Brokers Act of 1995 [815 ILCS 175/15-1 et seq.] (the "Act").
- 9. That Section 15-10 of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, that it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of loan brokering unless registered under the Act.
- 10. That Section 15-85(b) of the Act provides, <u>inter alia</u>, at (1) That it is prohibited under the Act for a loan broker to either directly or indirectly act as a loan broker without registration under the Act unless exempt under the Act; and at (2) That a loan broker shall not fail to file any application, report or document required to be filed under the provisions of the Act.
- 11. That at all times relevant hereto, Respondent, its Officers, Directors, Employees, Affiliates, Successors, Agents and Assigns, failed to file an application for registration as a loan broker with the Secretary of State prior to the aforementioned loan offer from the State of Illinois.
- 12. That by virtue of the foregoing, Respondent its Officers, Directors, Partners Employees, Affiliates, Successors, Agents, Assigns, have violated Section 15-10 and/or 15-85(b)(1) and (b)(2) of the Act.

13. That Section 15-55(d) of the Act provides, inter alia, that if the Secretary of State shall find any person is acting or has acted as a loan broker as defined in Section 15-5.15 of this Act, without prior thereto or at the time thereof having complied with the registration requirements of the Act, the Secretary of State may by written order prohibit such person from acting as a loan broker in the State.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT: pursuant to the authority granted by Section 15-55(c) and Section 15-55(d) of the Act, Lincoln National Financial Group, its' Officers, Directors, Employees, Affiliates, Successors, Agents Partners and Assigns are hereby **PROHIBITED** from engaging in the business of loan brokering in the State of Illinois.

NOTICE: Failure to comply with the terms of this Order shall be a violation of Section 15-65 of the ACT. Any person who willfully violates this act commits a class 4 felony.

This is a final order subject to administrative review pursuant to the Administrative Review Law [735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.] and the Rules and Regulations of the Act (14 III. Admin. Code, Ch. 1 Sec. 130.1123). Any action for judicial review must be commenced within thirty-five (35) days from the date a copy of this Order is served upon the party seeking review.

ENTERED: This 24 day of August, 2010.

Besse White W Secretary of State State of Illinois

Attorney for the Secretary of State:

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